

**302 Saltmeadow Cove  
Johns Island, SC 29455**

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

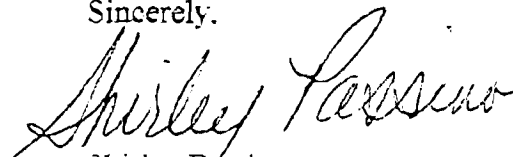
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I have come to the conclusion that the settlement that was reached in the Microsoft antitrust case should be instituted. Any continuation or revival of this would be a waste of time and money for both plaintiff and defendant.

After struggling for years to reach this settlement Microsoft and the Justice Department finally reached a settlement with the help of a court appointed mediator. Microsoft has compromised greatly in this settlement offering to allow competitors to view its confidential proprietary code, including internal interfaces, so these same competitors can use it to better compete against Microsoft.

Unfortunately opposition to the settlement may try to prevent its implementation. If you support the settlement and do not yield to these special interests this case could finally see its final days. That will be good for both sides and the economy.

Sincerely,



Shirley Passino

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond